

REMARKS

Claims 11-31 are pending with claims 22-31 added by this paper. Support for at least some of these and the added claims can be found at page 6, lines 12-27; page 7, line 8 - page 8, line 5; and page 10, lines 4-22.

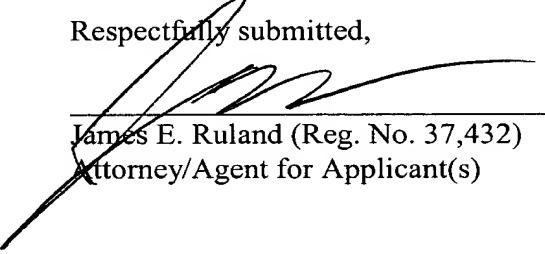
Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge that claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, and claims 12-21 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. With respect to claims 11-15 and claim 21, Applicants have amended these claims to overcome the rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as well as the claim objection to claim 11. With respect to the amendments to claims 11-13, Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims. Also, Applicants have amended claim 12 by defining, "increasing the molecular weight of sulfur compounds present in at least one of the feedstock or the effluent from step (a1)". This amendment is consistent with the specification, e.g. at page 10, lines 8-9, which provides increasing the molecular weight is conducted either simultaneously or after the selective hydrogenation. Furthermore, claims 14, 15 and 21 have been amended either for clarification or to correct antecedent basis. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims because they merely make explicit what is inherent.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration is respectfully request. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE". If there are any remaining issues which can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 11-15 and 21 have been amended as follows.

11. (Amended) A process of producing gasoline with a low sulfur content from a gasoline feedstock containing ~~sulfur, light~~ sulfur compounds ~~saturated and unsaturated~~ and ~~sulfur~~ compounds, diolefins, olefins, aromatics, nitrogen and acetylenic compounds, said process comprising at least the following steps:

(a1) conducting at least one selective hydrogenation of the diolefins and acetylenic compounds contained in the feedstock,

(b) conducting at least one separation of effluent obtained at the end of step a1 into at least three fractions: a light fraction containing ~~light~~ olefins, and from which substantially all of the sulfur has been removed, a heavy fraction in which most of the sulfur compounds initially contained in the gasoline feedstock is concentrated, and at least one intermediate fraction ~~having a depleted content of olefins and aromatics~~,

(c1) conducting at least one treatment of the heavy fraction separated at step (b) on a catalyst enabling the ~~unsaturated~~ sulfur compounds to be at least partially decomposed or hydrogenated, and

(d) conducting at least one step to remove the sulfur and nitrogen from at least one intermediate fraction.

12. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 11, further comprising at least one step (a2) prior to step (b) of increasing the molecular weight of ~~light~~ sulfur compounds present in at least one of the feedstock ~~and or~~ the effluent from step (a1).

13. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a step (c2) of treating effluent from step (c1) on a catalyst ~~so as to decompose the sulfur compounds~~.

14. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 13, in which the hydrogenation of olefins in said effluent of (c1) is limited to less than 20% by volume.

15. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a step (e) of mixing at least two of said fractions, at least one of which was desulfurized at step (c1) and optionally (c2) and/or step (d).

21. (Amended) A process according to claim 11, further comprising subjecting effluent from at least one intermediate fraction of step (d) to catalytic reforming.